

# **New York State Occupational Health Clinic Network**

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Bureau of Occupational Health  
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# Background

- ☉ Created 1987
- ☉ Mount Sinai Study
  - \* Burden of Occupational Disease
  - \* Lack of Trained, Independent Occupational Medicine Physicians and other Occupational Health Professionals, including Industrial Hygienists

# Services Available from Clinics

- Receive Patient Referrals
- Provide Technical Expertise
- Education
  - \* Community Groups
  - \* Health Professionals
- Evaluate Environmentally-exposed Residents



# Focus

- Community-based
- Centers of Excellence
- Prevention-oriented

# Community-Based

- Local Advisory Boards
  - \* All Stakeholders Participate
  - \* Regular Meetings
- Collaborations with Businesses, Unions, Community Groups, Healthcare Providers
- Services Target High-risk Workers
- Access to Care
  - \* Regional Satellite Clinics
  - \* Sliding Fee Scale

# Centers of Excellence

- Occupational Medicine Physicians, other Trained Staff
- Expert, Independent Diagnosis of Complex Cases
- Quality Assurance / Quality Improvement



# Prevention of Occupational Diseases

- Sentinel Events
- Work-site Evaluation
- Targeted Outreach
- Group Screening of High-risk Populations
- Education
  - ✱ Workers and Unions
  - ✱ Employers
  - ✱ MD's and other Healthcare Providers



# Role of the Health Department

- Oversight
  - \* Administrative
  - \* Scientific
- Convene Regular Network Meetings
- Maintain Patient Database
  - \* demographics
  - \* referral, payment sources
  - \* industry/occupation
  - \* diagnoses and etiologic agents



# Surveillance vs. Privacy

- More information
- Specific information
- Ability to follow-up
- Burden on reporter
- Personal identifier
- Risk of adverse outcome (firing, insurance)



# Uses of Clinic Data

## 🌀 Clinics

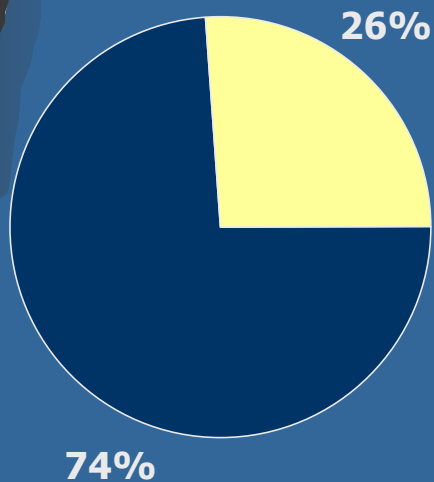
- \* Follow cases
- \* Identify trends, clusters
- \* Focus Outreach

## 🌀 Department of Health

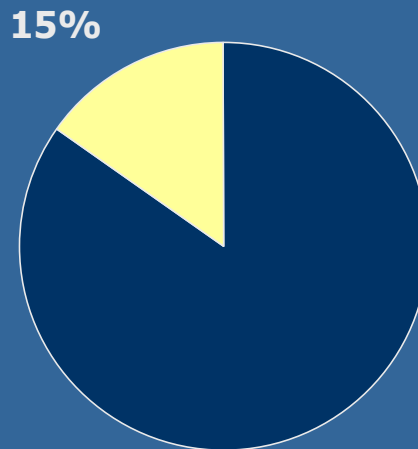
- \* Link with disease registries
- \* Programmatic Oversight
- \* Identify trends, clusters

# NYS OHC Network Patients, by Gender

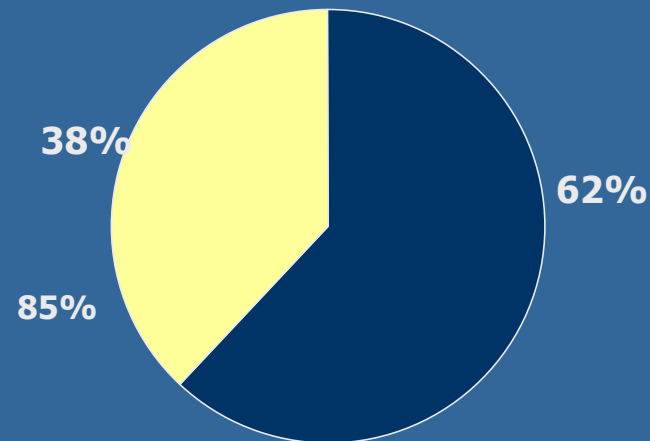
**All Patients**  
(n=36,505)



**Group Screen**  
(n=20,558)



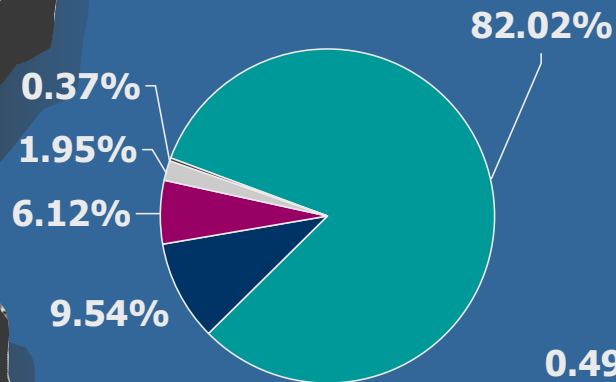
**Individuals**  
(n=17,065)



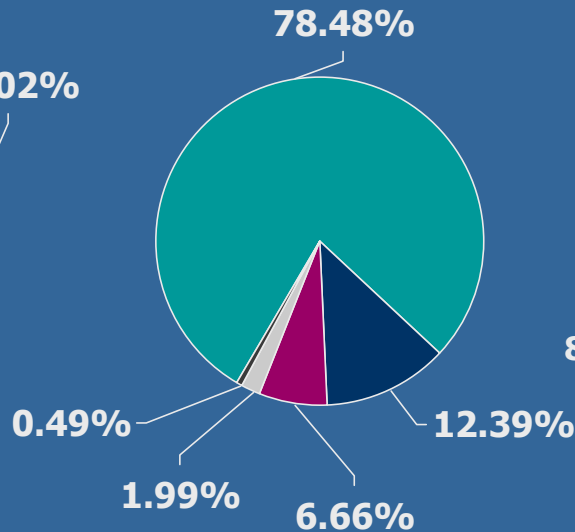
■ Male ■ Female

# NYS OHC Network Patients, by Ethnicity

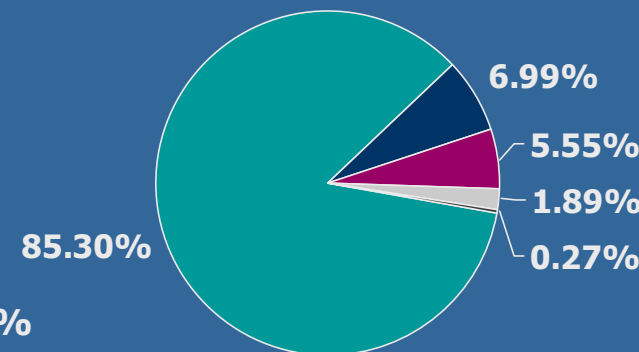
**All Patients  
(n=36,505)**



**Individuals  
(n=17,065)**



**Group Screened  
(n=20,558)**



White

Black

Hispanic

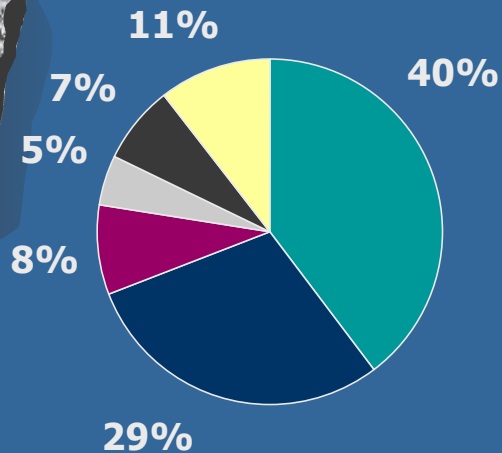
Asian

Native American

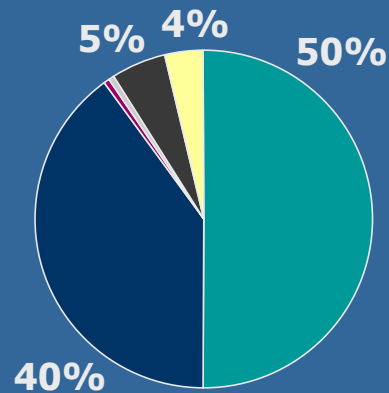


# NYS OHC Network Patients, by Referral Source

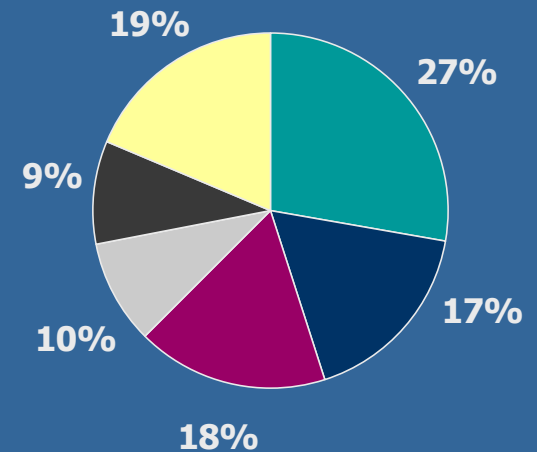
**All Patients  
(n=36,505)**



**Group Screen  
(n=20,558)**



**Individuals  
(n=17,065)**



Union

Employer

MD

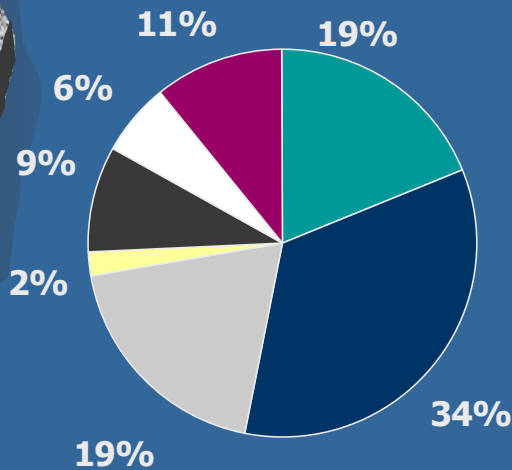
Lawyer

Self

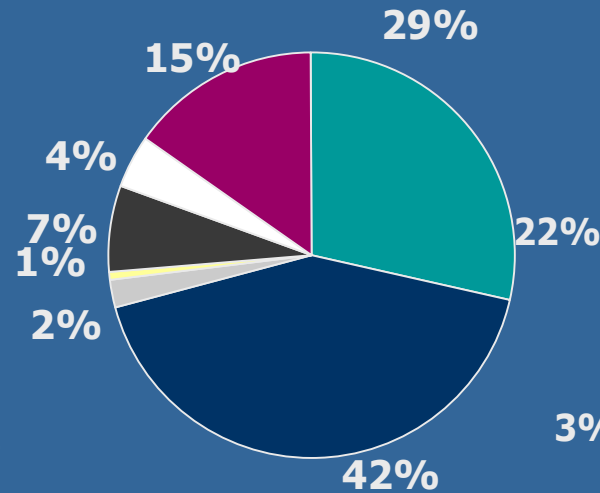
Other

# NYS OHC Network Patients, by Payment Source

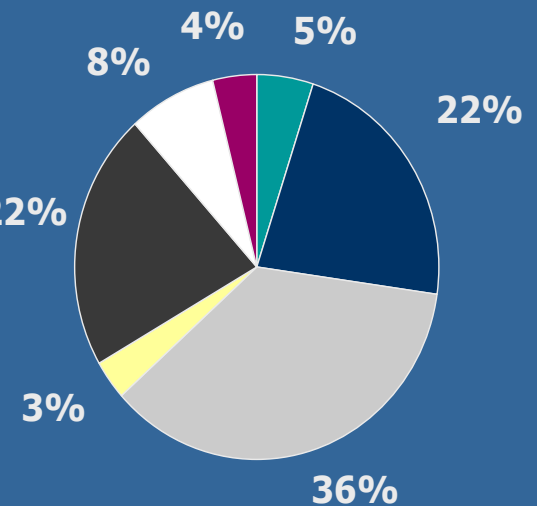
**All Patients  
(n=36,505)**



**Group Screen  
(n=20,558)**



**Individuals  
(n=17,065)**



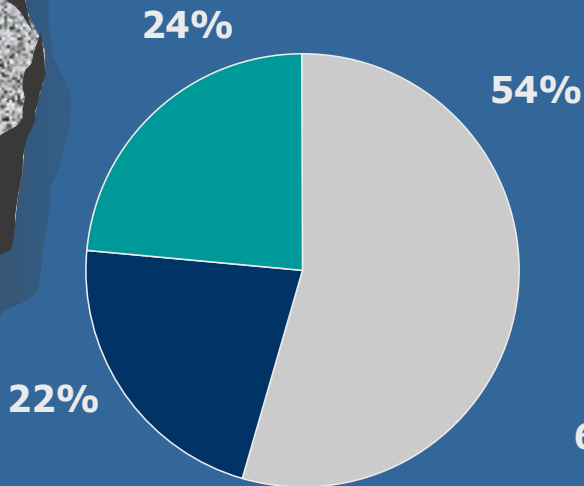
Union  
Medicare/Medicaid  
Other

Employer  
Pvt. Ins.

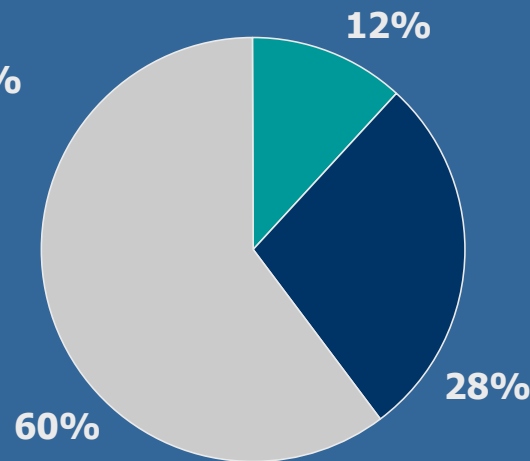
Wk. Comp  
Self

# NYS OHC Network Patients, by Occupation

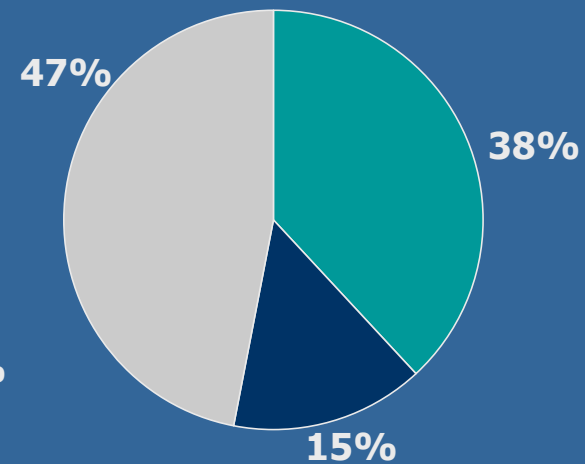
**All Patients  
(n=36,505)**



**Group Screening  
(n=20,558)**



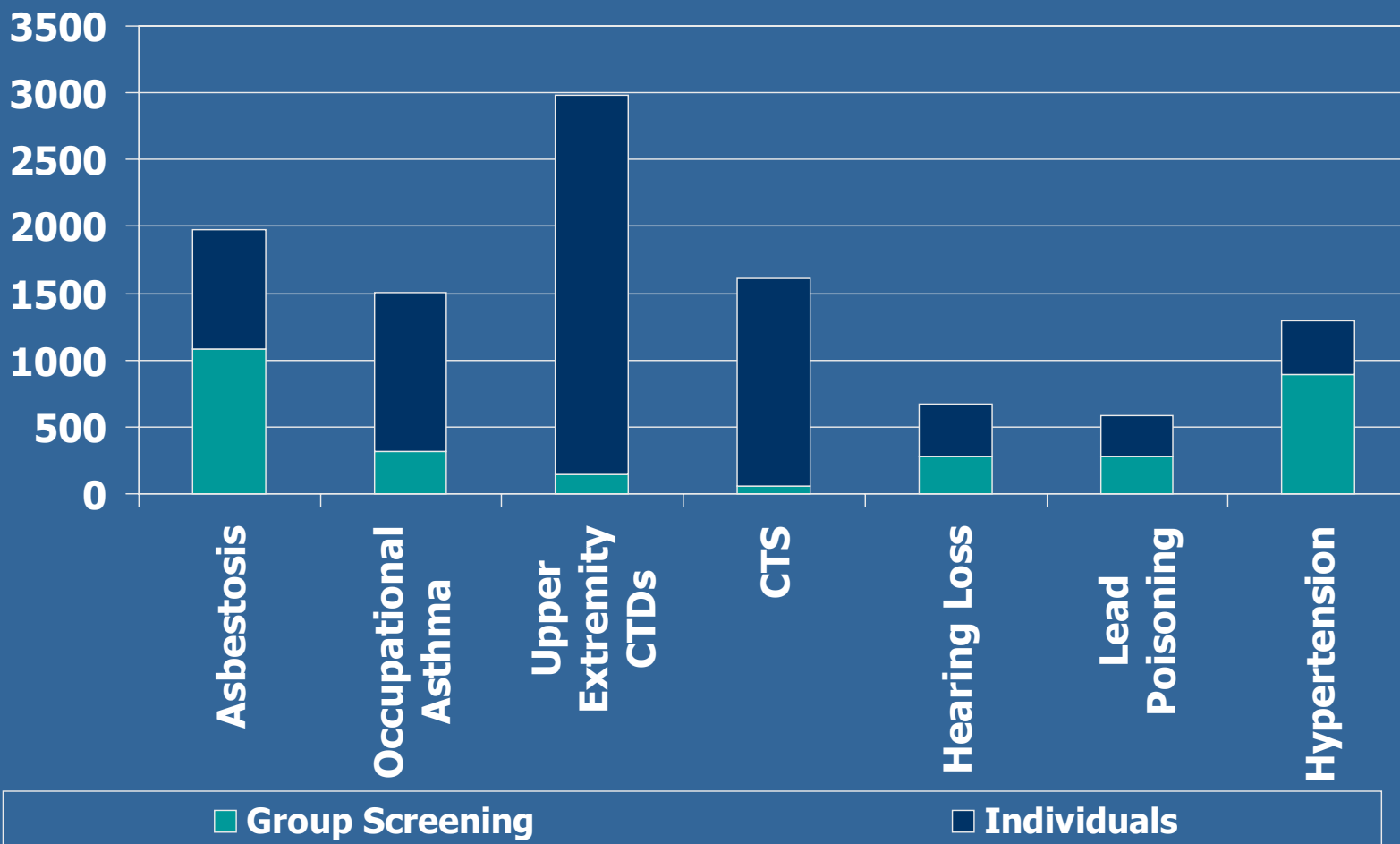
**Individuals  
(n=17,065)**



■ White Collar  
■ Blue Collar

■ Construction

# NYS OHC Network Patients, by Select Diagnoses





# NYS OHC Network Clinical Practice Reviews

- Physicians of the Occupational Health Clinic Network have developed a series of clinical practice reviews. These were published in the January 2000 issue of the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* - a dedicated issue titled:  
**"The Diagnosis and Treatment of Occupational Diseases: Integrating Clinical Practice with Prevention"**
- These reviews are intended to assist clinicians in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of common occupational diseases.

# Clinical Practice Reviews

- ☼ **Medical Examination for Asbestos-Related Disease**
- ☼ **Clinical Evaluation and Management of Lead-Exposed Construction Workers**
- ☼ **The Diagnosis and Management of Solvent-Related Disorders**
- ☼ **Medical Evaluation for Respirator Use**
- ☼ **Clinical Evaluation and Management of Work-Related Carpal Tunnel Syndrome**
- ☼ **Evaluation and Management on Chronic Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders of the Distal Upper Extremity**
- ☼ **Clinical Evaluation, Management, and Prevention of Work-Related Asthma**
- ☼ **Occupational Hearing Loss**
- ☼ **Evaluation and Management of Occupational Low Back Disorders**

# Clinical Practice Reviews

[www.health.state.ny.us/  
nysdoh/envIRON/occupate.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/envIRON/occupate.htm)



# World Trade Center- Related Activities

- ☼ Clinical Medicine
  - \* Diagnosis and treatment of ill responders
- ☼ Medical Monitoring
  - \* Assist in the development of protocol
  - \* Provide services
- ☼ Respirators
  - \* Medical Certification
  - \* Fit-testing



# World Trade Center- Related Activities

- ☼ Environmental/Occupational Sampling
  - \* Obtain and/or interpret samples
- ☼ Consultants/Technical Assistance
  - \* Unions
  - \* Employers
  - \* Physicians
  - \* Governments
  - \* Community groups
- ☼ Public Meetings